

The Knoxville Independent

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Your Flag and My Flag

By WILBUR D. NESBIT

YOUR Flag and my Flag! And oh, how much it holds—
Your land and my land—secure within its folds!
Your heart and my heart beat quicker as the night
Sun-blend and wind-blend, red and blue and white.
The one Flag—the great Flag—the Flag for me and you—
Circles all the world—the red and white and blue.

YOUR Flag and my Flag! And how it flies today
In your land and my land and half a world away!
Red and blue and white—the stripes forever gleam;
Blue and white and red—the good Republic's dream.

Blue and white and red, with stars to gleam afar—
The glorious colors of the day, a shield through the night.

YOUR Flag and my Flag! To every ear and stripe
The drums beat as hearts beat and flares shrill pipe.
Your Flag and my Flag—a blessing in the sky;
Your hope and my hope—never hid a lie!
Home land and far land—half the world around,
Old Glory bears our glad salute and rippled to the sound!



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"No men living are more worthy to be trusted than those who toil up from poverty, none less inclined to take or touch aught which they have not honestly earned."—Abraham Lincoln.

PROSPERITY DEPENDS ON U. S.

E. H. Gary Sees Bright Future for the Steel Trade America.

New York, Dec. 18.—A period of amazing prosperity, preceded by one of readjustment, the duration and extent of which will depend upon the degree of intelligence with which the government and American business men meet the problems involved in shifting from a war to a peace basis, lies ahead in the steel trade. That, in substance, is the opinion of Elbert H. Gary of the United States Steel corporation, as expressed in discussing the outlook for the great basic industry of which he is the leader.

"Recently I predicted that the next five years will be the most progressive, prosperous and successful of any like period in our history," Mr. Gary said, "and the same prediction may be applied specifically to the steel industry."

Carter Glass Sworn In.
Washington, Dec. 18.—Carter Glass of Virginia was sworn in as secretary of the treasury in the presence of the Virginia delegation in congress and a group of government officials. Mr. Glass announced that he would rely upon Mr. McAdoo's staff and had asked that the usual formality of presenting resignations be dispensed with.

Belgium Names Peace Envoys.
Brussels, Dec. 18.—The following peace delegation, it was announced, will represent Belgium at the peace conference: Foreign Minister Hyman, minister of justice, Vandervelde and M. Van der Houvel, minister to the Vatican.

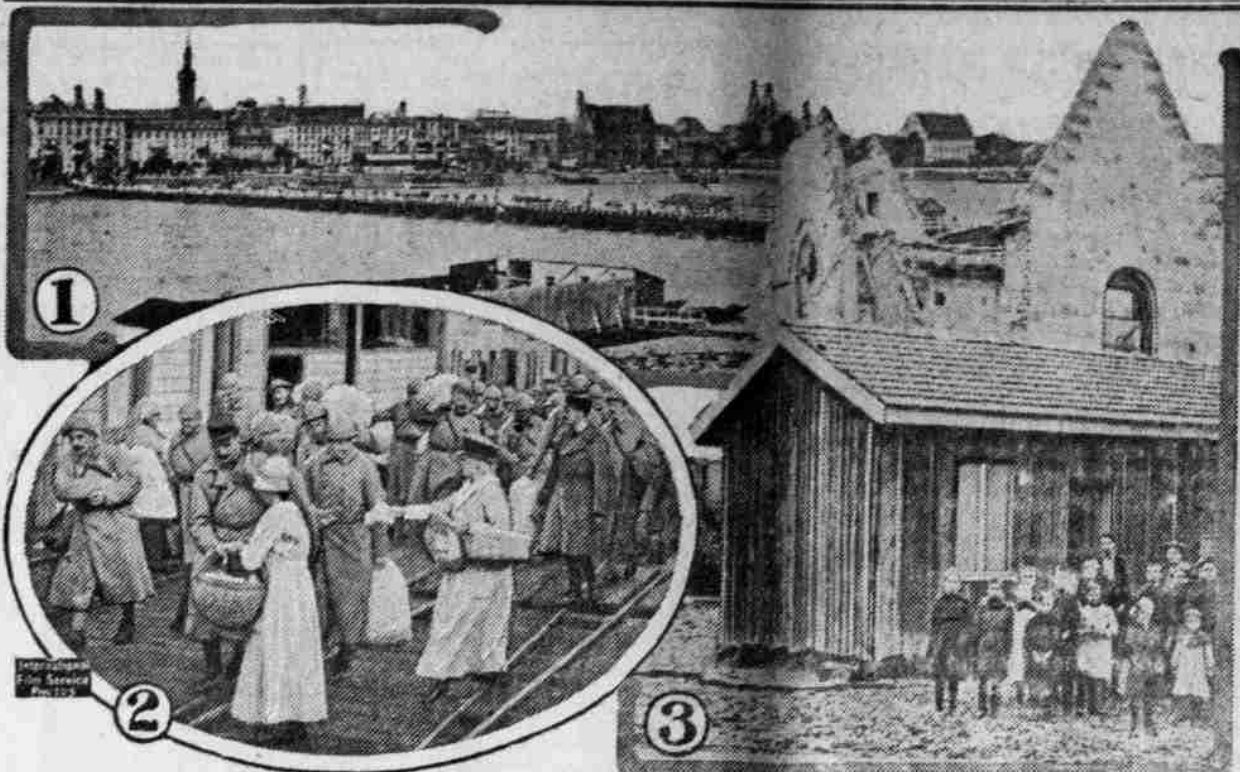
Auditor Under Arrest.
Washington.—Edwin S. Gee, Auditor for the War Trade Board, is under arrest at Chicago, charged with forging a number of Government checks issued in the name of employees who had left the Government service. It was said that Gee would be returned to Washington for trial.

FLEET DUE HOME DEC. 24

U. S. Warships Returning From Europe Will Be Reviewed by Secretary Daniels.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The American fleet returning from Europe, which is to be reviewed at New York by Secretary Daniels, is expected to arrive off Ambrose light vessel at daylight on Tuesday, December 24.

Lunch With British Royalty.
London, Dec. 19.—American Ambassador and Mrs. Davis lunched with King George and Queen Mary Tuesday. They rode to the palace in the royal carriage and were greeted by enthusiastic cheers from the crowds.



1—View of Treves, headquarters of the American army of occupation in Germany. 2—Five hundred French veterans in San Francisco on their way from the European battle front to Siberia, given flowers and cigarettes by Red Cross workers. 3—One of the hundreds of improvised schoolhouses erected in northern France by the American Red Cross.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Great Britain and Mr. Wilson Likely to Agree as to the "Freedom of Seas."

ENGLAND'S POSITION STATED

Allies Will Demand That Germany Pay Their War Bill of \$120,000,000,000—Conditions in Land of Huns Still Are Chaotic—President Reaches France.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

There are indications in the dispatches from Europe that the biggest problems of the peace conference may be solved more easily and amicably than had been feared. The greatest of these, possibly, is the matter of the "freedom of the seas." The Germans and certain others had been hoping that this rather nebulous question would be the cause of trouble between America and Great Britain, and there is no doubt that the British have been preparing to contend firmly that they must not give up the weapon that really saved the world from the Huns and that is so necessary to the safety of their widespread empire. Their public men, from Lloyd George down, all have said this frankly without waiting for President Wilson to define publicly just what he means by the phrase "freedom of the seas." London now professes to have assurance that the differences between Mr. Wilson and the British in this matter will not be difficult of adjustment.

Sir Frederick E. Smith, attorney general, expressed succinctly Britain's attitude when he said: "I am not sure that Great Britain will not have to say to the allies at the peace conference: 'We shall be quite satisfied with such a definition of freedom of the seas as will enable the British navy in the unfortunate event of future wars to do exactly what the British navy, aided by the American navy, has been doing for the last eighteen months.'"

The premier himself, addressing a meeting at Bristol, said emphatically: "Wherever the request comes from, we are not going to give up the protection of the navy, so far as Great Britain is concerned."

It is to be regretted that some voices are being raised in England as well as in America in favor of a "soft peace," for fear the German people will be resentful! On this question Lloyd George again may be quoted. Reiterating his declaration that Germany should pay to the utmost limit of her capacity, he said the war bill of the allies against the Huns is \$120,000,000,000. The whole wealth of Germany, as estimated before the war, would fall short of this sum by between twenty and forty-five billions. However, the premier says the allies propose to exact the entire cost of the war from Germany, that it can be exacted in such a way that it will do no more harm to the country that receives it than to the country that pays it, and that the demands of the allies must come in front of the German national war debt. A British commission already has reported on Germany's capacity to pay.

Belgium, France and the other victorious nations of Europe, it may be assumed, are no less determined than is Great Britain to compel Germany to stand the full cost of the fearful conflict she started. It is likely France will occupy the German lands west of the Rhine until payment has been made.

Belgium probably will come out of the war greater in territory than when she went in. She intends to ask the restoration of the parts of the provinces of Limburg and Luxembourg which went to Germany and Holland by the international treaty of 1839, and also to ask that the Dutch return the land which includes the lower Scheldt.

While the allied nations, generally agreeing that the former kaiser and his fellow conspirators must be brought to trial for their crimes, are discussing ways and means of bringing this about, William Hohenzollern is preparing to resist extradition from Holland, and is getting ready his defense in case Wilhelm's government does give him up. The Dutch premier declares the former emperor is entitled to the right of sanctuary in Holland, and is not interned, since he went there as a private citizen after renouncing his throne, and that his return to Germany cannot be legally demanded. In taking this position, he asserts, Holland is not unneutral but is observing the law and treaties. An unconfirmed report came across that William attempted suicide, and other stories have him quite ill.

Premier Ebert, who may not become the first president of the German republic, appears to be gaining the upper hand, though slowly and with difficulty. Doctor Liebknecht and his Spartacus group have been badly worsted in several elections for members of the soldiers and workmen's council, and his advertised revolution resulted only in a series of rather bloody riots in Berlin and some other cities. There are other elements, however, that enter into the complicated situation, notably the Prussian Guard and other still intact bodies of troops that refuse to disarm and join wholeheartedly with the socialists when they return from the front. This, in the opinion of some Germans, portends a counter-revolution, presumably for the restoration of the monarchy; and a nucleus for such a movement has been provided by Prince Henry of Prussia, brother of the former kaiser, who has proclaimed the establishment of a royalist party in Germany. For the present the Prussian Guard is supporting Ebert.

The executive committee of the soldiers and workmen's council invited Russian bolsheviks to Berlin to take part in a conference on December 16, but the cabinet has asked the Russian government not to send these delegates, because of the "present situation in Germany." The cabinet was much disturbed by the rash boasting of Joffe, bolshevik ambassador to Germany, that several of the ministers were actively seconding his plan to introduce Russian methods into Germany.

The anxiety of the German people is greatly increased by the belief that the allies will not conclude a peace until a stable form of government is established, and that their chances of getting food from their conquerors are very slim while disorder rules in their land. In order to give the Ebert government a parliamentary basis the reichstag probably will be convened soon. Incidentally, Ebert has got rid of Doctor Solf, who has resigned as minister of foreign affairs.

President Wilson was vociferously welcomed when he landed at Brest Friday. His journey to Paris was a triumphal progress, and at the capital he was wildly acclaimed. The welcome he received from the civil and military chiefs of France was most flattering. It was announced that his "official" visit in Paris would last only 48 hours, after which he would settle down to the serious business that has taken him overseas.

The French socialists are taking every advantage of Mr. Wilson's presence in France, and among those who greeted him was a large delegation of the socialist members of the chamber of deputies. The French general labor federation has caused meetings of workmen to be held throughout the country to adopt resolutions offering President Wilson their help "to bring about a triumph for his conception of a people's peace."

It is announced that the president will visit the devastated parts of Belgium and France and also that he will go to Italy. He has, however, scornfully declined in advance any invitations to visit Germany.

Unless Italy tones down her course on the east coast of the Adriatic the Jugo-Slavs are going to have serious complaints to lay before the conference of the allies. A considerable part of the territory the Italians have occupied there is claimed by the new

Jugo-Slav republic which hopes for international recognition, and in Cattaro, Dalmatia, an armed conflict, it is said, was averted only by the active intervention of the commander of the American contingent there. Prince Alexander of Serbia has been made regent of the state of Jugo-Slavia.

Conditions in Vienna and in German Austria generally are growing desperate. Food and coal are almost exhausted and the former soldiers, who are said to possess 100,000 rifles and many machine guns, have declared that unless food arrives speedily they will be at liberty to find it where they can. The Czechs could send the Austrians food and fuel, but will not do so until the latter agree to the Czech claims for certain Austro-German territory. The Vienna authorities are praying for the arrival of allied troops, preferably Americans, to check the rising disorder and bolshevism.

Bolshevik power in Russia is gradually dwindling, but there is little else in that country to encourage the allies. Admiral Kolchak, who was made dictator at Omsk, is disposed to co-operate with the allied forces, but their governments have not recognized him. The Russians and the Czechs do not know what the American and Japanese policies are—they are not alone in that—and the latter are reported to be hard pressed by their enemies in some quarters. Meanwhile, according to Stockholm advice, a new government for Russia is being formed in that city under the leadership of former Premier Treppoff, Prince Volkonsky, Baron Taube and Senator Jassiadko. It is alleged this government will be supported by the entente and will carry on matters of state in Stockholm until the bolsheviks are finally crushed. In southern Russia Grand Duke Nicholasievich, former commander in chief of the Russian armies, is in command of a formidable force of Cossacks. What his intentions are is not stated. The bolsheviks in the Volga region continue to attack the Russo-allied forces, without success. What is doing in Siberia, if anything, is concealed by the Japanese censorship.

Advocates of leniency toward the Germans will find little support for their arguments in the reports that come from the allied armies of occupation. While the Germans in the occupied territory are giving their conquerors little trouble, they maintain their haughty and even insolent demeanor, and unbend only for the purpose of getting trade benefits. There is not the slightest trace of repentance for the crimes of their former government and their armies, and east of the Rhine those armies are being received as unconquered heroes and hailed as the chief support of the new state.

The American commanders have chosen not to interfere with the civil life of the inhabitants of the occupied cities more than is absolutely necessary. But in the regions occupied by the French and British strict regulations are enforced. When the Huns wall, they are reminded that these are almost copied from the mildest of the regulations imposed on the French and Belgians by the Germans.

The German armistice delegates asked that they be permitted to maintain communication with the provinces west of the Rhine now being occupied by the allies, but Marshal Foch told them it was necessary to maintain the blockade of Germany as provided by the armistice. It appeared likely last week that the armistice would be extended.

Director General McAdoo, expressing, he says, not only his own opinion but that of President Wilson as well, recommends that congress adopt legislation extending the period of government control of railroads to January 1, 1924. He says the prosperity of the nation depends largely on the efficiency of railroads; that to continue government operation under present conditions for 21 months after peace is declared, the limit set by the present law, is impossible, and that unless congress takes the action recommended the roads must be returned to private ownership at the earliest possible moment.

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